

Priority Focus Area 3
Structured Decision Making Model (SDM)
December 2011

The Children's Research Center (CRC) continues to provide training and technical assistance for DCFS staff involved in the SDM project. On October 18th, a GoToMeeting was hosted by Shannon from CRC during Professional Development Team meeting as refresher for trainers. Participants also included statewide CPS steering committee and some members of the Program and Practice Improvement team (PPIT). The topic of the presentation and discussion centered on incorporating SDM with the existing Practice Model. Two more refreshers trainings were held to continue coordination and information sharing between the CRC and statewide trainers.

The SAFE programmers continue to make significant progress on the SDM Safety and Risk Assessments. It is anticipated they may be ready by mid-January 2012. Development also continues on the SDM Risk ReAssessment.

The statewide Quality Improvement Committee summit was held on December 13, 2011. Shannon from the CRC came to Utah and did a formal presentation to the group regarding SDM. The presentation included an overview of the SDM tools and well as data and other supporting information. Shannon did a second formal presentation the next day at the statewide DCFS Supervisor Conference. In addition to the overview, Shannon also presented information specifically at the role of the supervisor in the SDM process.

During this quarter, Linda Wininger accepted the lead role in the SDM project. Linda has exceptional experience in project management. Linda supervisors all of the program specialists and the SDM system permeates all of the program areas from intake through foster care.